

PLATE VII.

- Fig. 1. *Ligdia japonica*, Leech, p. 449.
 Fig. 2. *Boarmia venustaria*, Leech, p. 414.
 Fig. 3. *Phyllabra ras curraria*, sp. n., p. 441.
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XLIV.—*Descriptions of Two new Muridæ from Central and West Africa.* By W. E. DE WINTON.

THE examination of some specimens of West-African Muridæ lately acquired by the British Museum and kindly entrusted to me for determination by Mr. Oldfield Thomas shows the necessity for descriptions being drawn out and names given to two forms. One I propose to name *Mus sebastianus*, the peculiarity of the fur suggesting arrows sticking in its skin. The other I name *Malacomys centralis*; the examples of this species were collected and presented to the British Museum by Dr. Emin Pasha ten years ago, and referred to by Thomas (P. Z. S. 1888, p. 11) as *M. longipes*, but have until now never been compared with specimens of *M. longipes*, M.-Edw. The Museum has since acquired several specimens of this West-African form.

Mus sebastianus, sp. n.

Size rather smaller than *M. rattus*: whole of the upper parts dull coffee-brown, fur soft and rather woolly, interspersed with long shining lance-shaped darker hairs; beneath greyish white, not sharply separated from the colour of the upper parts; feet and hands covered with fine short adpressed brown hairs; nails pale horn-colour, small on the fore feet, those on the hind feet much larger and stronger, curved, but not very sharp; front part of the face and nose thickly haired; whiskers all black-brown, long, reaching well beyond ears; in the alcoholic specimens the ear laid forward just reaches to postcanthus of the eye; tail very long, unicoloured dark slate, smooth and practically naked.

The general colour of this mouse seems to come between "vandyke" and "burnt umber" of Ridgway. The long shining hairs are very conspicuous, as they are fully twice the length of the rest of the coat and wave with their own weight as the specimen is turned about in the hand; a closer examination shows that these hairs are of very peculiar shape, being exceedingly fine for more than half their length, then increasing several diameters and ending in a point; thus, when a single hair is extracted and laid on the table it resembles a miniature porcupine-quill on the end of a fine piece of wire. The fore feet are very typical of the genus, and there is nothing out of the common in the structure of the hind feet; the first toe reaches to base of second, fifth to end of first phalanx of fourth; pads, first four are large, last two small, all pointed; soles smooth and naked.

Type, ♀ in al. (97. 2. 21. 4 in British Museum):—Mammæ 1—2=6. Head and body 141 millim.; tail 190; hind foot 29; ear 18.

A younger ♂:—Head and body 132; tail 185; hind foot 28; ear 17.

Loc. Efulen, Cameroons.

The skull somewhat resembles that of *M. univittatus*, but is more ridged. In profile it is arched; it is rather short and broad, bumpy and angular; supraorbital and temporal ridges strongly developed, forming well-marked angles at the junction of the frontals and parietals, and also in the middle of the latter over posterior roots of zygomata; the ridges continue back to join the occipital ridge, forming a polygonal pattern on the top of the skull, only open across the inter-orbital constriction; the zygomata, bowed evenly downwards, are of nearly equal thickness throughout. Auditory bullæ very small. The molars are exceedingly simple; in neither of the specimens to hand is there any sign of cusps, and the pattern of the enamel folds is perfectly plain, with none of the minor folds found in a greater or less degree of development in the teeth of nearly every member of the genus. Upper incisors orange-yellow, lower rather paler. The palatal foramina barely reach a line drawn between the front roots of molars; the postnarial opening is rounded and open, the back of the palate barely extending to the level of the back of the molar series.

Mandibles short and deep, condyles set very high nearly to level of coronoids, which are small; the back line is very little bowed in from the perpendicular.

Skull measurements:—Greatest length 37·5 millim., greatest breadth 18·5; breadth of brain-case 15, constr. 6·5;

interpar. 5×10 ; nasals 13×4.5 ; basal length 31.5 ; hens. to back of pal. 16.5 ; back of pal. to for. mag. 12.5 ; pal. for. 8×2.7 ; ms. 6.1 ; diast. 10 ; outside ms. 7.8 , inside 3.5 ; mandible, length (bone only) 20 , height 12.1 .

This mouse may possibly be identical with *M. hypoleucus*, Pucher.; but as that name had already been applied to a mouse from Natal by Sundevall (Æfers. Vet.-Ak. Stockh. 1846, p. 121), it cannot be considered.

I think there is no doubt that we here have the animal described by Prof. Tullberg ('Muriden aus Kamerun,' p. 36, 1893) as *Dasymys longicaudatus*, which is certainly not a *Dasymys*, as is clearly shown in the figures given of the skull, and, being a *Mus*, the specific name cannot stand, being rendered useless by having been applied by Bennett (P. Z. S. 1832, p. 2) to a South-American mouse now known as *Orizomys longicaudatus*. But, presuming this to be the case, it is scarcely credible that the very striking peculiarity in the fur could have remained unnoticed unless the season of the year prevented this peculiarity being apparent.

Prof. Tullberg sets *Mus univittatus* down as an *Isomys*: this mouse has a fairly well-marked dorsal streak, and its hind feet approach the *Isomys*, or, as it should be called, *Arvicanthis* form; but in every other character it is a true *Mus*. I feel sure that if more specimens had been examined *Mus (Isomys) rufocanus* would never have been described, for among the specimens of *Mus univittatus* in the British Museum from the same locality will be found variations greater than those separating these two forms, with every intermediate step. I shall therefore consider them as identical.

Malacomys centralis, sp. n.

Size rather larger than *M. longipes*, but in texture and colour of fur and proportions of all parts it closely resembles that species. The soft velvety fur is very shrew-like and suggests the colour of *Sorex minutus*. Ears very long and naked.

Colour above dull liver-brown, slightly mixed with grey, rather more golden on the head, neck, and rump; a dark oval sooty-coloured patch surrounds each eye; whiskers fine, long, liver-coloured; front part of the face very scantily haired; the whole of the underparts greyish; feet and hands clothed with extremely fine short whitish hairs, not much more developed than the bloom on a peach; tail distinctly bicoloured, but varying somewhat in clearness, smooth and naked.

Type, ♂ (87. 12. 1. 60 in British Museum). Measurements taken from skin:—Head and body 180 millim.; tail 175; hind foot 40; ear 25; heel to front of last foot-pad 20; fifth toe to half first phal. of fourth; first toe short, not reaching to base of second. Foot-pads 5, between bases of second and third toes, between bases of third and fourth, at base of fifth, at base of first, and one about its own length posterior to that at base of first.

Loc. Tingassi, Mombuttu.

A female shows the mammæ 1—2=6.

Skull (broken): length to lambda 35.5 millim.; breadth 18; breadth of brain-case 16.5; constr. 7; nasals 16.5 × 4.3; hens. to back of pal. 18.4; pal. for. 6.3 × 3; ^{ms.} 6; diast. 12.3; outside ^{ms.} 1 7.8, inside 4.5, mandible, length (bone only) 22, height 12.

In comparison with *M. longipes* the skull is larger, as also the length and breadth of the molars; the brain-case broader and more rounded; the angle of juncture of fronto-parietal suture more obtuse; and in the mandible the greater length of the coronoid is evident. This is now the third known species in this genus, and is larger than *M. longipes*, M.-Edw., from the Gaboon and Cameroons, or the more brightly coloured graceful form *M. Edwardsi*, Roehb., from Liberia.

XLV.—On a new Species of Lagidium from the Eastern Coast of Patagonia. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE genus *Lagidium* has not hitherto been known to occur away from the chain of the Andes, and it has therefore been with much interest that I have examined an example of this genus obtained in the hills near Chubut, Eastern Patagonia. By the kindness of Dr. Moreno, of the La Plata Museum, the specimen has been acquired by the British Museum.

On the whole, considering its geographical isolation, the Chubut *Lagidium* is surprisingly like the Andean forms, those from the southern end of the Andean chain being naturally most nearly allied to it, while the more northern ones, such as *L. peruanum* and *L. pallipes*, are considerably more distinct.

Though like, however, it cannot be assigned to any described species, and I would therefore propose to name it, in honour of the distinguished Director of the La Plata Museum,